

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Division of Measurement Standards
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, California 95826

DMS NOTICE
D - 03 - 3

May 16, 2003

Discard: Retain

TO ALL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Measurement of Ethanol Blended Gasoline

On January 1, 2004, the use of the oxygenate Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) in gasoline will no longer be permitted in California and in almost all cases will be replaced by ethanol.

The blending of gasoline and MTBE normally took place at the refinery, and was then delivered to distribution centers through pipelines. Because ethanol has a corrosive effect on the seals and valves of the pipelines, the blending now occurs at the loading racks of distribution centers. The loading racks are being retrofitted to accommodate this change with the addition of meters and controller software or completely new systems.

In some systems, the gasoline and ethanol are metered separately and combined into a total volume for billing (both meters are commercial). Other systems may "batch" ethanol and gasoline prior to final commercial measurement, but may have added commercial batch controller hardware and software to existing systems.

Officials are reminded to verify the type approval of new commercial meters or batch controller systems added at these locations. Also, verify that registered and licensed service agents install the meters or systems; that they identify their work and send notification within 24 hours.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact your device area specialist or Ken Lake, Program Supervisor, at (916) 229-3047 or klake@cdfa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Cleary".

Mike Cleary
Director
(916) 229-3000